

As our members know, for two years the University and city have been negotiating a new lease agreement for the Washington Park Arboretum. A compromise has been reached and that location will be referred to and continued as a public service area of the University of Washington Arboreta and Botanical Garden program. Namely it will serve as a display area for botanical specimens encompassed in a "Passive Park".

Although it is too early to have a program established for the University's participation in the Washington Park Arboretum, it is hoped that the public will enjoy the plantings already there as well as additions that will be made in the future and participate in their preservation.

In order to continue its plant research program with adequate security the University is proposing a research center and Botanical Garden in an area known as Union Bay (East Campus). It is what was known as the "Educate" dump plus the Union Bay housing area. The property is approximately 90 acres in extent and owned by the University of Washington.

Initial reaction can easily be negative; however, under the guidance of Dr. Dale W. Cole (Director, Center for Eco-Systems, Department of Forest Resources) and Mr. Joseph A. Witt (Curator of Plant Collections of the University of Washington Arboreta), a number of us were given a "walkabout" of the area to learn of its potential.

Exciting it truly is! Where in Washington Park we have mature trees, well developed glens and meadows, here is raw land, but what a vista! In exchange here is a view looking south down Lake Washington to Mt. Rainier, east to a developed handsome residential area, to the west the buildings of the campus in their varied architecture, softened by the green of existing trees.

There are back waters, marshes, even permanent resident geese. The west boundary consists of a stream, technically a drainage from the University Village Shopping Center, but filled by the back waters of the lake. Even as we stood on the simple arched bridge and looked up the irregular stream course lined with the simple native shrubs and plants, there was an atmosphere of the natural and peaceful.

So much for the beauty already there ..... Part of the so-called solid land is now occupied by a World War II housing development. These buildings have been condemned and will be relocated. Then there is the barren sad area of the bogland filled in as a garbage dump. Even in walking along the paths, the soil is so hard the sound of our shoes could be heard with every step. We were conscious of the faint odor of methane gas escaping from the cracks in the hard packed ground.

It takes vision to see the potential of this area. As any gardener knows, a great deal must be done below the surface before one sees the rewards above. And so it is here ..... an opportunity to prove that poor land can be restored ..... a true reclamation study ..... an active program to also probe that monumental obstacles can be overcome. Eventually beautiful plantings, visual and scientific, will complement the vista offered and enhance the area.

Is it sheer folly to expect such a transformation in a few years. This is a program that will require many years of work, research, trial and error and pure

hard labor. However, it is a challenge and an exciting one!

The accompanying map outlines the proposed land use of the area.

Section A is designated for use for an administration building, greenhouses and parking. It will have first priority.

Section B, which provides a windbreak of trees against the winds from off the lake, will be used for organized and test plantings.

Section C is seen as a research area. This is part of the old dump. A parking lot presently on part of the property will be removed (actually it is sinking due to the unstable land.)

Sections D, E, and F will remain as natural areas.

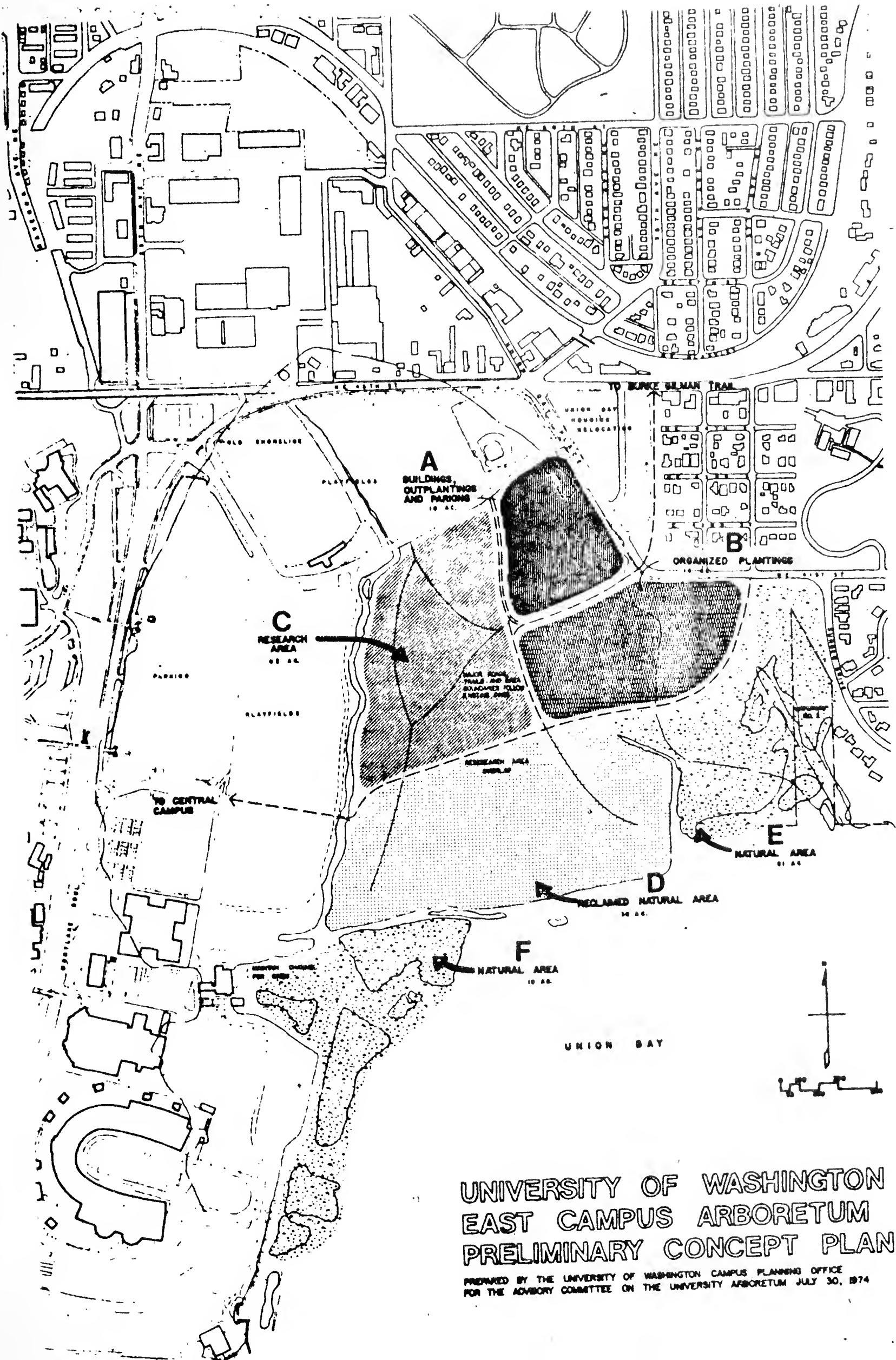
Section D, now covered by self-sown wild grasses (and weeds) will continue as it is with possible occasional mowing. Near the water are close growing bushes which act as a natural barrier against access to the site by water.

Section E consists of marsh areas and ponds covered with water lillies ..... a happy home for the Mallard ducks and their offspring.

Section F is the wild marsh area where geese make their permanent home.

Since the map states that this is a preliminary concept plan, it is understood that changes may and no doubt, will occur. Also it must be recognized that the development will proceed in stages over a number of years. Certainly any phase of the proposed development of the Union Bay property can be hastened by public interest, participation and support, both physical and financial. The rare advantage over many other arboreta in the country is that this proposed site is within the city limits and close to transportation.

Many of us were enthusiastic about this proposed project before our "walkabout" with Dr. Cole and Mr. Witt; however, we had not realized the natural attributes that the property possesses, even in its raw existing state. You have to see to believe and to be able to visualize its true potential. Our enthusiasm exploded into fruitful ideas of how we could assist in making the Union Bay Botanical Garden a reality. And it is our fervent hope that the University will begin without delay.



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
 EAST CAMPUS ARBORETUM  
 PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLAN

PREPARED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON CAMPUS PLANNING OFFICE  
 FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE UNIVERSITY ARBORETUM JULY 30, 1974

